

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A MANUAL OF THE PENICILLIA.** By Kenneth B. Raper, Principal Microbiologist, Fermentation Division, Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Peoria, Illinois; and Charles Thom, Collaborator, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$12.00.

Species of *Penicillia* are among the most common of the fungi not pathogenic for man and animals. These molds occur widely in nature but attracted relatively little interest until one of them was demonstrated by Fleming to produce penicillin. The discovery of this substance and the search for improved methods of production led to a complete re-examination of the *Penicillia*.

This book represents the results of this study, and classifies and describes this genus in the greatest detail. The work is of no interest to physicians but will be very valuable to those scientists whose work requires an understanding of these fungi.

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**X-RAY TREATMENT—ITS ORIGIN, BIRTH AND EARLY HISTORY.** By Emil H. Grubbe, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P. The Bruce Publishing Company, St. Paul, 1949. \$3.00.

This is an interesting monograph of 154 pages written by a Chicago physician of some 50 years' experience in medical practice. The author sincerely believes that he was "the first person in the world to actually make use of these rays in the treatment of disease." He sustained injury to his own hands while working with the rays in 1896 and states that he thereafter applied the rays to a number of patients in the hope of obtaining effects.

The photographs of the author's laboratory in the earlier days of this century, and of the general lecture room in the "Illinois School of Electrotherapeutics" will bring back memories of early physics laboratories to many readers.

Appended to the book is the author's biography including a summation of the ten "firsts" to his credit. It is suspected that some early workers with radiant energy in Europe and South America will contest several of these firsts. Nevertheless, the biographic notes are of considerable interest and reveal to the younger generation the kaleidoscope of medical schools in the Chicago area during the last several decades.

The monograph can be recommended as light reading to those interested in radiation therapy, and in the history of this particular division of medicine.

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**RATIONAL MEDICINE.** By John W. Todd, M.D. (Lond.) Assistant Physician to Farnham Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$6.50.

In 1943 Dr. Todd was sent from England to Asia for a three-year stay which gave him a chance to sit and think, and to consolidate his ideas on his profession. The result, this book: The thoughts of a sensitive and analytical mind on the application of modern medicine to the patient. It is the sort of book which can be written without using a single reference. It is filled with the rebellious philosophy of a conscientious spirit. In it the author jousts at many of the accepted complacencies and fallacies of today's medicine as well as yesterday's. It is a provocative book, calculated to irritate the smug among us.

The book follows, in considerable part, the outline of a textbook of medicine. But the author gives a minimum of

data with a maximum of analysis and reasoning. In each chapter, he presents his own ideas on the purpose of the procedure considered. He repeatedly emphasizes the emotional and social sides of an illness along with its physical aspects. At the same time he argues that past psychological evidence should be evaluated in much the same way as past organic evidence. He consistently points out the inadequacies, falsities, pomposities, and limitations of certain time-honored symptoms, signs and tests. He deplores over-simplification (but at times has this very fault, e.g., in the treatment of peptic ulcer on page 204).

His viewpoint is probably best summarized by the following quotation (page 310): "Until the day dawns when the ideas are accepted that man is an indivisible whole, that psychiatry permeates the whole of medicine, and that students should be taught by the same men at the same time and on the same patients about the disorders of the mind as about the diseases of the body, it is to be feared that the misunderstanding of the relations between mind and body will continue."

The book can be highly recommended to all doctors who are not afraid to look at themselves or at their profession, critically and philosophically.

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**STERN'S APPLIED DIETETICS—The Planning and Teaching of Normal and Therapeutic Diets.** Revised by Helen Rosenthal, B.S., Chief of Frances Stern Food Clinic, the Boston Dispensary, Assistant in Medicine, Tufts College Medical School; Pearl C. Baker, B.S., former Associate, Frances Stern Food Clinic; and Wilma A. McVey, M.D., Assistant in Medicine, Tufts College Medical School. Third edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Boston, 1949. \$5.00.

This volume outlines the procedure of the food clinic of the Boston Dispensary for the planning and teaching of normal and therapeutic diets. As such, it meets the particular problems which are encountered in this kind of clinic. The techniques described may be satisfactory for filling the food prescriptions for an out-patient department, but they are less suitable for use in the private practice of medicine.

The book is written essentially for the dietitian, the social worker, and the health educator working with a dietitian. The doctor of medicine will find it, for the most part, on a different level from his usual sources. However, Part II and Part III may prove of some value to him: Part II is made up of tables which simplify the computation of diets; Part III is composed of dietary outlines which summarize the purposes and construction of different types of diets. These make a reference which may fit on a physician's shelf.

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**TEXTBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, Vol. IV—The Neurology of Vision Motor and Optical Anomalies.** Sir W. Stewart Duke-Elder, K.C.V.O., M.D., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., Surgeon Oculist to H.M. the King, 1081 illustrations, including 71 in color. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$20.00.

The fourth volume of this series is like its predecessors, an excellent text and reference book.

The book has a carefully outlined contents. The book itself contains 13 chapters and 1,123 pages of subject matter.

The chapters on the lesions involving the visual pathways and the field studies in these cases are very well done and very readable. The organization of the symptoms, the typical lesions with careful field studies, makes this portion of the